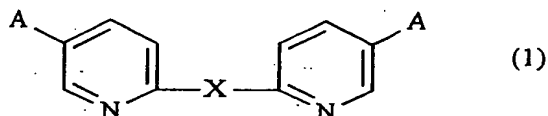


Amendments to the Claims

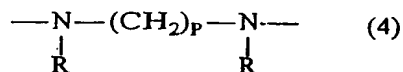
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group of formula (4) :



wherein, in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein, A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted furyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzofuryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl group.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein[[,]] A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein said phenyl group or said pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, benzofuryl or benzothienyl group is substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, hydroxy(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy groups, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, (lower alkyl)thio groups, amino, mono- or di-(lower alkyl)amino groups, (lower alkyl)sulfonylamino groups, formyl, carboxyl, (lower alkoxy)carbonyl groups, lower alkanoyl groups, pyrrolidinyl, and alkylenedioxy groups.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The ~~bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl)~~ bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein the lower alkyl group R is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The ~~bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl)~~ bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein said 1 to 3 substituents are selected from the group consisting of methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, trifluoroethoxy, methoxyethoxy, hydroxyethoxy, fluorine, chlorine, hydroxy, cyano, methylthio, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, formyl, carboxyl, ethoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, propionyloxy, N-methyl-N-methoxycarbonyl, acetyl, and methylenedioxy.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The ~~bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl)~~ bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 4, wherein said ~~bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl)~~ bis(5-

aryl-2-pyridyl) compound is N,N'-bis[5-(3,4,5-trimethoxy-phenyl)-2-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine dimethanesulfonate.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A ~~medicinal composition~~ therapeutic agent having IgE antibody production inhibiting activity, comprising, as an active ingredient, an effective amount of a ~~bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl)~~ bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

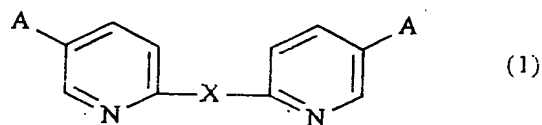
Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicinal composition~~ therapeutic agent having IgE antibody production inhibiting activity according to Claim 9, which is effective in the ~~prevention or~~ therapeutic treatment of an allergic immune disease.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicinal composition~~ therapeutic agent having IgE antibody production inhibiting activity according to Claim 10, wherein ~~which~~ said allergic immune disease is asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis or an allergic ~~ophthalmopathy~~ ophthalmopathy.

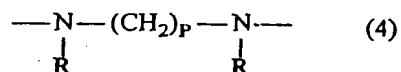
Claims 12 and 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subject suffering from an allergic immune disease, which comprises:

administering an effective amount of the ~~bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl)~~ bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof represented by formula (1) ~~or a salt thereof~~



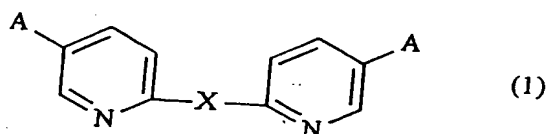
wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group ~~selected from the group consisting of moieties having of~~ formula (2) to (5) (4):



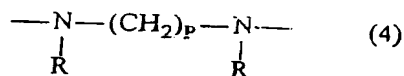
wherein, in formula (2), m is an integer of 1 or 2; in formula (3), n is an integer of 1 to 6; and in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6, to said subject.

Claim 15. (New) A method of inhibiting IgE antibody production, which comprises:

administering an effective IgE antibody production inhibiting amount of the bis(5-aryl-2-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof represented by formula (1):



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, and X is a group of formula (4):



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wherein, in formula (4), R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group and p is an integer of 1 to 6, to
a subject.